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Defense Funds Boost Is Urged By Robertson

Times-Dispatch News Bureau Lexington, Nov. 27—An important choice between an increased defense program or expanded national production and income will face the next session of Congress, Sen. A. Willis Robertson said Tuesday.

The next session of the Congress may be the most vital in the history of our nation," the senator said, "because it will decide which issue is to have priority: the strengthening of our defense posture as a safeguard against a nuclear war; or a more rapid expansion of national production and production income, both of which are already at an all-time high."

Senator Robertson, chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking and Currency, made his remarks here in an address before the Political Science Society, a Virginia Military Institute cadet organization.

He noted that the decision of Congress will have increased importance because of Cuba and West Berlin.

More Defense Urged

The senator urged a stepped-up pace in national defense, calling for an accelerated pace in modernizing the army, production of intercontinental missiles, specifically the Minuteman program, and additional funds for the RS70 bomber program.

"We urgently need to modernize our army and to add at least one more regular division. At the present rate of modernization that will take five years and the total cost will be 10 billion dollars. We should accelerate that program by one billion dollars a year."

"It is equally as vital for us to accelerate the production of intercontinental missiles." The most practical missile program is the Minuteman, being developed by the air force, he said. In comparison with the Atlas missile Robertson said, the

Minuteman has the same range and warhead capacities while only half the size. It is considerably easier to launch, he added.

Funds for Bombers

The senator said "all needed funds" should be applied to the RS70 bomber program.

Robertson took a stand against any tax cut proposal in the next session that would mean a loss in revenue. "The Congress cannot afford to spend money on defense and at the same time indulge in the luxury of cutting taxes, which would result in a revenue loss of from eight billion to 10 billion dollars," he said.

Robertson also criticized the failure of many of the NATO nations to meet their commitments. "There are 16 members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and we are the only member which has furnished troops and military equipment that were assigned to us as our fair share." He added that, with the exception of France, all the others had put domestic prosperity first.

Concerning the Cuban situation, he urged continued inspection from the air and on-the-ground reports from the CIA.

Will Continue Inspection

"In the United Nations we will continue to insist on the right of inspection and, in the meantime, we will continue our own inspection."

Robertson said he supports President Kennedy's present Cuban policy but described the decision to deny air support to the Bay of Pigs invasion a "costly blunder." He also suggested John McCloy as a possible Secretary of State.

"The President called upon a New York Republican, John McCloy, to be his chief adviser. Personally and in behalf of a bi-

partisan policy, I would be glad to see McCloy named as our Secretary of State. The senator said that the situation of Cuba now, despite the urging of many factions, would be difficult. Cuban forces have been built up and military experts feel that any invasion would require six divisions with full air and naval support, he

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